

To give my all

The rigours of success were described by Napoleon Hill: “Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit.” That is to say, fall seven times, stand up eight times. Though success is subjective to everyone, nevertheless, the destination is the same. All I have to do is to choose the route to it, and one of them is through hard work and effort. I always believe to give my all for whatever I do, so as to not let myself down. It was this belief that propelled me through the arduous parade trainings.

Last December holidays, my two other squadmates and I participated in the inaugural Special Parade, which was for the officiating of changing of commandant of NPCC. Aware of the fact that my drills were not as good as my other two squadmates, I volunteered to be the reserve in this parade. I felt downcast because I yearned to march out onto the actual parade, especially since I feel I have worked equally hard as the rest. However, I never seem to be able to get out of the fate of a reserve because my drills were not as good. Nevertheless, I knew I was there representing my unit- Nanyang NPCC. And not wanting to let the unit, my ma’ams, or myself down I promised myself: to give my best during the trainings!

During the intensive trainings, we focused on our contingent’s coordination in marching and to keep our drills sharp and swift. I struggled through my muscle aches and was determined to keep my back straight and head raised, taking pride in executing every drill. I had to work doubly hard because I wasn’t as good as others in executing my drills. However, there were times I simply felt jaded, drained. Having to go through the same process repeatedly made trainings mundane. Efforts put in started to wane.

Fortunately, Ming Wei Sir’s words came timely, as he said,

“My expectations set for you guys are putting in your best. Whatever you do, do with your might.”

Therefore, despite feeling exhausted, I did not want to succumb to the fatigue of my body and relax one bit.

You must be thinking: It is silly of me to invest that amount of hard work and effort during the training when after all I was a reserve. However I beg to differ. Regardless what role I play in the parade, I should still give my best so I do not regret and seize a good learning experience out of it. Similarly, it applies to other situations. In fact, because of my relentless effort, I was given the chance to be swapped into the main contingent and eventually positioned in the front row. I was extremely grateful for the chance given.

This incident highlighted that giving it my all means to put what I have learnt to good use, thus making the most of my life. I will continue to give my best for everything to